

# Wayne Allard

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## **SENATOR WAYNE ALLARD TO HOST WEST NILE DEET EDUCATION OUTREACH MEETINGS IN GREELEY AND GRAND JUNCTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The office of U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) is scheduled to host two "Fight the Bite With DEET" forums in Grand Junction and Greeley to raise awareness about the potential dangers of the West Nile virus in advance of the upcoming mosquito season. The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel will co-host the Grand Junction event, set to begin at Noon on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Grand Junction Senior Recreation Center, and The Greeley Tribune will co-host the forum in Greeley, scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24 at the Greeley Recreation Center.

"I'm pleased to bring the importance of West Nile prevention to the forefront," Senator Allard said. "By taking the appropriate precautions, Coloradoans will be able to significantly decrease their risk of infection this summer."

At the forums, survivors of the West Nile virus – those who were infected and lived to tell the tale – will discuss their experiences with forum participants. Also present will be a wide range of state and local government and health officials.

- Covering as much skin as possible with long sleeves and pants, as well as the use of an insect repellent containing DEET, an ingredient that blocks the virus-carrying mosquitoes' ability to find their victims
- Removing as much standing water as possible from around your home and securing screen doors and windows
- Assisting the community in establishing and supporting mosquito control efforts, including reporting dead birds and cleaning up public areas that may provide breeding habitat for mosquitoes

"Last year nearly 3,000 people were infected with West Nile virus in Colorado, with 61 deaths," Senator Allard said. "As this virus spreads westward through the state, it is critical that Coloradoans take the proper steps to prevent contracting this killer disease."

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